

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 34131 201125Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /082 W
----- 065533 /43

R 201005Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7357

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 34131

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN TH
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON COMMERCE MINISTER SUTHI NATWORATHAT
ON MORNING OF DEC 20. SALIENT POINTS RAISED DURING AMIABLE
AND RELAXED MEETING FOLLOW:

A DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION OF RTG DETERMINATION,
INCLUDING PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER, IN IMPROVING
FOREIGN INVESTMENT CLIMATE MINISTER SUTHI INDICATED HE FEARED
SOME MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT COULD SHAKE INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE
BY EXAGGERATING EXTERNAL THREAT TO THAILAND. WHILE HE MENTIONED
NO NAMES IT WAS APPARENT HE WAS REFERRING TO RECENT REMARKS
OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR SAMAK. SINGLING OUT THE MORE ACTIVE
INSURGENCY IN THE SOUTH AS CAUSE FOR CONCERN, SUTHI
DECLARED STRONG ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THIS THREAT,
BUT STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS SHOULD ONLY BE MADE WHEN THE
SITUATION WARRANTED.

B AMBASSADOR CONGRATULATED SUTHI ON OUTSTANDING
EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF THAILAND DURING PAST YEAR. MINISTER
AGREED SAYING THAILAND HAD BEEN VERY LUCKY IN FINDING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 34131 201125Z

MARKETS FOR ITS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND HE HOPED THIS
FAVORABLE TREND WOULD CONTINUE. HE CONFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS
WERE BEING CONCLUDED FOR A SALE OF 300,000 METRIC TONS OF RICE
TO INDONESIA AND THAT OTHER SALES TO HONG KONG, SINGAPORE,
MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES, POSSIBLY SRI LANKA AND THE MIDDLE EAST
AND AFRICA WOULD HOPEFULLY RESULT IN SALES OF SLIGHTLY MORE

THAT 1 MILLION METRIC TONS OF RICE DURING NEW CROP YEAR. MINISTER TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH EMBASSY ON PL-480 MATTERS AND REAFFIRMED HOW HELPFUL IT WAS FOR USG TO DELAY PL-480 PROGRAMS UNTIL THAILAND HAD COMPLETED USUAL MARKETING SALES. AMBASSADOR ASSURED SUTHI WE WOULD CONTINUE TO CONSULT CLOSELY.

C MINISTER INDICATED HE WAS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF THAI UNDER THE TEXTILE QUOTA. UNFORTUNATELY, THAI MILLS DO NOT PRODUCE IN SOME CATEGORIES AND HE WISHED THERE WERE FEWER AND BROADER CLASSIFICATIONS. HOWEVER, RTG UNDERSTOOD PROBLEM AND HAD NO COMPLAINTS.

D PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES MIGHT CONSIDER BARTER DEALS ON FAVORABLE TERMS FOR THAI RICE WERE UNREALISTIC. SUTHI INDICATED THE ONLY POSSIBILITY HE COULD SEE AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE MIGHT BE PURCHASE OF PETROLEUM FROM OPEN COUNTRIES WITH EASY LOAN TERMS.

E MINISTER CONFIDED RTG MUST SOON MAKE A MAJOR DECISION TO RAISE THE PRICE OF DOMESTIC CONSUMER GAS. HE EXPECTED THIS DECISION TO BE MADE SOON.

2. COMMENT: IN HIS FORMER JOB AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE EMBASSY OFFICERS ALWAYS FOUND SUTHI FRIENDLY, REASONABLE, AND KNOWLEDGEABLE. WE EXPECT THIS HAPPY RELATIONSHIP TO CONTINUE DURING HIS PRESENT TENURE OF OFFICE.
WHITEHLUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO34131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760466-0742
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761226/aaaaawfr.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
TAGS: EGEN, TH, US, (WHITEHOUSE, CHARLES S), (SUTHI NATWORATHAT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006